

Park History

Because of its coastal location and access to marine resources, its diverse vegetation, and wide range of animal life, the Kachemak Bay and Gulf of Alaska areas have long been occupied by humans. Evidence shows area occupation by Sugpiaq cultures along the southern Kenai Peninsula coast as early as 6,000 years ago.

Before the establishment of the park, the mountainous southeast coast of Kachemak Bay was a place of natural beauty, solitude, and recreation for the people of Homer. When Kachemak Bay State Park was designated in 1970, it became Alaska's very first state park. People quickly took to the park, making it one of Alaska's most loved backcountry destinations, and over the years, legislative actions added acreage and a wilderness park. Today, there are nearly 400,000 acres of land within the parks, every one of them the result of concerned lawmakers and grassroots citizen action to preserve and protect this marvelous corner of the Alaskan landscape.

Overlooking Kachemak Bay and Homer Spit
Photo courtesy of Leanne Quirk

For More Information

Homer Ranger Station
(907) 235-7024
Marine VHF Ch. 16

Kenai Area Office
PO Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 262-5581

www.alaskastateparks.org



View of Grewingk Glacier
from Emerald Lake Loop Trail
A Division of the
Department of Natural Resources



Welcome to Kachemak Bay State Park & State Wilderness Park



Welcome

Alaska's first state park and only wilderness park together encompass nearly 400,000 breathtaking acres of mountains, glaciers, forest, coastline, and ocean. The park boasts an unmatched variety of habitats, wildlife, and recreational opportunities including: fishing, hunting, kayaking, beachcombing, camping, and hiking on over 85 miles of trails leading into the backcountry. Go where no road can take you, and set your course for one of the wildest and most remote state parks in the wildest and most remote state.

Columbine
Photo courtesy of Sarah Conlin

Backpacking
Beachcombing
Berry Picking
Bird Watching
Camping
Canoeing
Clam Digging
Climbing
Exploring
Fishing
Glacier Traversing
Hiking
Horseback Riding
Hunting & Trapping
Kayaking



Kachemak Bay Alpenglow
Photo courtesy of Kristen Fenske

Mountaineering
Packrafting
Paddle Boarding
Photography
Picnicking
Public-Use Cabins
Relaxing
Skiing
Scuba Diving
Snowshoeing
Surfing
Tide Pooling
Tracking
Whale Watching
Wildlife Viewing

Area Highlights

Getting There

Access to these parks is by boat or airplane. Air charters, water taxi services, and boat rentals are available in Homer.



Moose calf in fireweed
Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Sorlie

Wildlife

Kachemak Bay is a State Critical Habitat Area and a National Estuarine Research Reserve with fjords, coves, and estuaries that support a myriad of marine wildlife. Rich intertidal zones offer natural classrooms for marine studies. Visitors frequently observe sea otters, harbor seals, porpoises, and various whale species among the waves.

On land, you may spot moose, black bears, mountain goats, coyotes, and wolves. Many bird species also inhabit the area, including bald eagles, gyrfalcons, murre, and puffins.



Sandpipers and dunlin
Photo courtesy of USFWS



Views of Kachemak Bay from
Homer Spit



Kachemak campsite

Camping

Camping is allowed in most areas of the park. Several sites throughout the park have amenities for campers including: fire rings, picnic tables, tent platforms, toilets, and bear-resistant food caches. Check the map for campsite locations.



Black bear cubs

Public-Use Cabins

Six public-use cabins located at Halibut Cove Lagoon, China Poot Lake, Moose Valley, and Tutka Bay are available for rent. Reservations can be made up to seven months in advance. For reservations and informational fact sheets for each cabin, visit alaskastateparks.org.



China Poot Lake public-use cabin



China Poot yurt

Yurt Rentals

Six yurts are available for rent at various locations in Kachemak Bay State Park. A commercial operator maintains and rents these yurts. Each yurt sleeps a maximum of eight people and is equipped with a wood stove. Contact the Homer Ranger Station for more information.

On the Water

Always wear a life jacket. The waters within Kachemak Bay State Park are frigid and occasionally rough. When conditions are poor, be patient as the weather often improves in the evening. Carry food and warm clothing for an unexpected overnight. Marine charts show many of the bay's hazards and should be carried by all boat operators. Refer to Nautical Chart #16645, Gore Point to Anchor Point. For more information on safe boating, visit alaskaboatingsafety.org.



Dock at Halibut Cove



Grewingk Glacier Lake
Photo courtesy of Brody Reid

Public Mooring

Halibut Cove Lagoon offers an 80-foot-long dock, capable of mooring boats up to 26 feet long. The dock provides access to the ranger station, toilet, three public-use cabins, and nearby trails. Dock space is limited, and available on a first come, first served basis. There are no public mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay State Park.



Grewingk Glacier Mega Tsunami Hazard

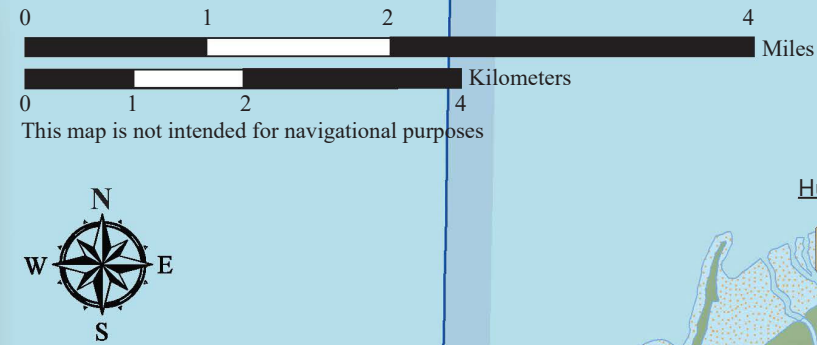
Grewingk Glacier is a popular visitor destination, and for good reason! The glacier is surrounded by miles of trail, glacier views, and a picturesque lake filled with icebergs. But this area has not always been so tranquil. In 1967, a landslide triggered an estimated 100 foot wave that scoured everything in its path within mere minutes. Stay alert and watch for landslide activity when recreating in the area. Know your exit strategy.

For more information, visit: dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/kachemakbaysp.htm

Background photo courtesy of Ryan Manor



Halibut Cove Lagoon Overlook public-use cabin



Look for triangular orange trailhead signs like this one when accessing trailheads from the water.

Legend

- Wilderness Park Boundary
- State Park Boundary
- Road
- Hiking Trail
- Trailhead
- Cabin
- Campsite
- Scenic View
- Drinking Water
- Tram
- Ranger Station
- Restroom
- Bear-Resistant Locker
- Tsunami Hazard

Trail Descriptions

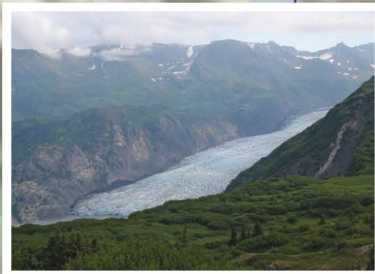
Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park range from family friendly to difficult and occasionally impassable; check the current trail conditions at [www.alaskastetrails.org](http://www.alaskastatetrails.org). For more information about trails, camping, and water availability, visit alaskastateparks.org.

When accessing trailheads from the water, look for a triangular orange sign with a black T on it marking the location of the trailhead.

Emerald Lake Loop Trail 1

Access: Grewingk Glacier trails or Humpy Creek Trailhead
Distance: 12.6-mile loop
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 2,800 feet

This trail accesses beautiful Emerald Lake and its alpine surroundings. The trail climbs to Portlock Plateau for fantastic views of Kachemak Bay. Look for bears and mountain goats on the high ridges. **Caution:** *Portions of this trail might be difficult to impassable; for trail conditions, visit the [Latest News](#) page at alaskastateparks.org.*



View from Alpine Ridge Trail



View from Moose Valley Trail

Grewingk Glacier Trails 2

Access: Glacier Spit Trailhead, Humpy Creek Trailhead or Emerald Lake Loop Trail.
Distance: Grewingk Tram Spur Trail, 1 mile; Blue Ice Trail, 1.9 miles
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 500 feet

Blue Ice Trail offers the only developed access to a glacier in Kachemak Bay State Park. At Grewingk Creek, there is a hand-operated cable car pulley system that requires two people for operation. **Caution:** *Unless properly trained and outfitted for glacial travel, do not climb on ice or in ice caves. Localized landslides pose a mega tsunami risk along lower elevations (more information on reverse page).*

Glacier Lake Trail 3

Access: Glacier Spit Trailhead or Saddle Trail
Distance: 3.2 miles one way to Grewingk Glacier Lake from Glacier Spit Trailhead
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 200 feet

This trail crosses flat terrain and ends at the broad, open beaches of Grewingk Glacier Lake. The trail comprises a popular route joined by the Saddle and Grewingk Glacier trails.

China Poot Lake Trail 4

Access: Halibut Cove Lagoon
Distance: 2.8 miles one way to China Poot Lake
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 500 feet

This popular trail gently climbs through the forest and over a low ridge, passing two small lakes where common loons are often seen and blueberries are plentiful in August.

Moose Valley Trail 5

Access: North end at mile 1.0 China Poot Lake Trail or south end at mile 0.8 Poot Peak South Trail.
Distance: 6.7 miles
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet (traveling southward)

This trail passes along the shore of Two Loon Lake, ascends through forested ridges and valleys, and then opens into Moose Valley's meadows. Look for high waterfalls beyond the log footbridge over Moose Valley Creek. Be attentive—tall grasses can obscure trail markers.

Poot Peak Trails 6

Access: China Poot Lake Trail to China Poot Lake
Distance: 4.3 miles North to South Trail loop with summit
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 2,430 feet

There are two routes that branch off the Wosnesenski River Trail to the summit of Poot Peak. The north route is very steep and is not maintained. The south route is not as difficult and is maintained, but it is longer than the north route. Both trails lead to the Summit Spur Trail. Only hikers with rock climbing training should continue beyond this point—climbing the peak is hazardous due to shifting scree and falling rock.

Wosnesenski River Trail 7

Access: China Poot Lake Campsite, Haystack Rock Trailhead
Distance: 11.3 miles one way
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 900 feet

Beginning from the Poot Peak Trail, this route winds through forests, meadows and bogs, up and over a low ridge, and into the Wosnesenski River Valley. The Wosnesenski River is a glacial river, braided with gravel flats on either side with sweeping vistas of mountains and glaciers, and a spectacular 600-foot waterfall. **Caution:** *Portions of this trail might be difficult to impassable; for trail conditions, visit the [Latest News](#) page at alaskastateparks.org.*

Sadie Knob Trail 8

Access: North Eldred Trailhead, South Eldred Trailhead. Please respect private property south of these two trailheads.
Distance: North route, 1.6 miles; South route, 1.9 miles; ridge trail to Sadie Knob, 2.6 miles
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 2,200 feet

This trail accesses an alpine ridge between Sadie Cove and Kachemak Bay. The North and the South routes connect the north and south ends of Eldred Passage—both join the ridge route. The trail follows the ridgeline to Sadie Knob where hikers can enjoy superb and expansive 360° views of Kachemak Bay. **Caution:** *Vertical cliffs and rugged country!* Clouds often shroud the trail, limiting visibility to under 50 feet making it easy to lose the trail. Wait for clouds to lift so you can spot trail markers in tricky areas.

Grace Ridge Trail 9

Access: North end at Kayak Beach Campsite or south end at South Grace Ridge Trailhead
Distance: 8.9 miles one way
Travel Means: Foot
Elevation Gain: 3,100 feet

This hike offers stunning views of Eldred Passage, Sadie Peak, Cook Inlet volcanoes and beyond. Watch for mountain goats, black bears, and golden and bald eagles.

